

Berwick, M., Leaderer, B.P., Stolwijk, J.A. "Lower Respiratory Symptoms in Children Exposed to Nitrogen Dioxide from Unvented Combustion Sources" Environment International 15: 369-373, 1989.

SUMMARY: A prospective epidemiologic study was carried out for 12 weeks in the winter of 1983 to evaluate the impact of indoor air contaminant levels on respiratory health. A group of 121 children below the age of 13 (59 with unvented kerosene space heaters in the home; 62 without) were enrolled in the study and nitrogen dioxide levels were measured in 93% of the subjects' homes for one two-week period. When socioeconomic status and history of respiratory illness were controlled, children under the age of seven exposed to 30 ug/m³ or more of nitrogen dioxide were found to have a risk of reporting lower respiratory symptoms 2.25 times (95% C.I. 1.69-4.79) that of children who were not exposed. Aspects of our study design, including increased precision of exposure classification and the inclusion of very young children, may explain our findings.

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